

Message Text

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TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: SEPT. 7 PRESS ROUNDUP

1. NEWSWEEK, IN SEPT. 12 ISSUE, SAID SECRETARY VANCE AND SOVIET AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN HAVE PRIVATELY DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF AN EXTENSION OF SALT ONE -- "WHICH WOULD PROBABLY BE FOR SIX MONTHS OR YEAR -- SEVERAL TIMES DURING PAST MONTH." NEWSWEEK SAID "FORMAL REQUEST FOR INTERIM ACCORD'S EXTENSION MIGHT HAVE TRIGGERED BLOODY CONGRESSIONAL BATTLE THAT WOULD HAVE HINDERED DELICATE NEGOTIATIONS."

2. NEW YORK TIMES REPORTED THAT TWO SCIENTISTS SAID HUGE CRACKS IN EASTERN BASIN OF ATLANTIC OCEAN FLOOR MIGHT BE PERFECT AS DISPOSAL PLACE FOR NUCLEAR WASTES, AND THAT CANISTERS OF LETHAL PLUTONIUM COULD LIE THERE 'NDISTURBED FOR 250,000 YEARS. COMMERCE DEPARTMENT RELEASED REPORT OF PETER RONA, GEOPHYSICIST AT ATLANTIC OCEANOGRAPHIC AND UNCLASSIFIED

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METEOROLOGICAL LABORATORIES IN MIAMI, AND KARL E. TUREKIAN, GEOCHEMIST IN YALE'S GEOLOGY AND GEOPHYSICS DEPARTMENT. THEY SAID ANY WASTE THAT ESCAPED COULD TAKE "PERHAPS THOUSAND YEARS" TO RISE TO SURFACE.

3. ROBERT LINDSEY OF NEW YORK TIMES IN LENGTHY ARTICLE

SEPT. 4 ON ARMS INDUSTRY, SAID IN WAKE OF PRESIDENT'S CANCELLATION OF B-1 BOMBER PRODUCTION, ARMS MAKERS "ARE SCRAMBLING FOR SHARE OF 25 BILLION DOLLARS THAT INDUSTRY OPTIMISTS BELIEVE WILL BE LIBERATED FOR OTHER PROJECTS OVER NEXT FIVE YEARS., TO INDUSTRY PESSIMISTS, LINDSEY REPORTED, PRESIDENT CARTER "MEANT HIS CAMPAIGN PROMISES TO SLOW FREE-SPENDING ARMS INDUSTRY." MODERATE SCHOOL OF OPINION, HOWEVER, HOLDS THAT PRESIDENT MEANS TO CURB WEAPONS SPENDING, BUT MOMENTUM OF U.S.-SOVIET ARMS RACE, POLITICAL REALITIES AND CONGRESS WILL LIMIT WHAT HE CAN DO, LINDSEY POINTED OUT. AMONG FORECASTS OF SENIOR AEROSPACE EXECUTIVES AND WALL STREET AEROSPACE ANALYSTS CITED BY LINDSEY WERE THESE: "EXCEPT FOR NEW CRUISE MISSILE, MORE EMPHASIS WILL BE PLACED ON TACTICAL WEAPONS THAN STRATEGIC WEAPONS, ALTHOUGH PRESSURE FROM CONSERVATIVE CONGRESSMEN, AND NEW INFORMATION ABOUT SOVIET CAPABILITIES MIGHT PROPEL INTO DEVELOPMENT SUCH NEW STRATEGIC WEAPONS AS AIR FORCE'S PROPOSED MX INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILE, AND "EFFORTS BY PRESIDENT AND SOME CONGRESSMEN TO LESSEN AMERICAN ROLE AS ARMS SUPPLIER TO NON-COMMUNIST WORLD WILL PROBABLY REDUCE EXPORT SALES SOMEWHAT BUT WILL BE LIMITED BY POLITICAL FACTORS -- PARTICULARLY, MANY THOUSANDS OF AMERICAN JOBS THAT DEPEND ON ARMS EXPORTS." LINDSEY SAID AIR FORCE IS TRYING TO DIVERT SOME OF B-1 MONEY TO PROJECT TO CONVERT FB-111, ONCE KNOWN AS TFX, INTO BOMBER USING ENGINES DEVELOPED BY GENERAL ELECTRIC FOR B-1. LINDSEY UNCLASSIFIED

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SAID THIS PROJECT HAS SOME "HIGHLY INFLUENTIAL PATRONS -- THE S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION, WHICH HAS LONG LOOKED AFTER GENERAL DYNAMICS CORPORATION, AND MASSACHUSETTS CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION, WHICH DEARLY WANTS SOME WORK FOR BAY STATE'S G.E. PLANT THAT WAS JOLTED BY CANCELLATION OF B-1." BERNARD HEINRAUB, ALSO OF NEW YORK TIMES, SAID SEPT. 7 THAT AIR FORCE ARGUES THAT FB-111 FIGHTER COULD BE CONVERTED INTO LONG-RANGE NUCLEAR MANNED BOMBER RELATIVELY CHEAPLY. HE SAID DEFENSE SECRETARY BROHN IS CONSIDERING AIR FORCE PROPOSAL TO MODIFY 65 OF EXISTING FB-111S AND ADD 100 TO FLEET. COST WOULD REACH ABOUT SEVEN BILLION DOLLARS, LESS THAN ONE-THIRD OF 24.8 BILLION DOLLARS IT WOULD HAVE COST TO BUILD 244 B-1 BOMBERS. FUSELAGE WOULD BE STRETCHED AND RANGE, FUEL CAPACITY AND WEAPONS LOAD WOULD BE INCREASED. PLANE'S ELECTRONICS WOULD BE IMPROVED SO IT COULD PENETRATE SOVIET AIR DEFENSES. CURRENT FB-111S HAVE RANGE OF ABOUT 4,100 NAUTICAL MILES, WITH LIMITED CAPACITY AS PENETRATING BOMBER. UNDER NEW PROPOSAL, PLANE WOULD BE ABLE TO FLY 5,700 NAUTICAL MILES WITHOUT REFUELING. VANCE

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